

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held remotely, on Tuesday, 17 August 2021, at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors MARK SALMOND, TOMMY STEWART, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, BRADEN DAVY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, DAVID LUMGAIR, MARK McDONALD, IAN McLAREN, RICHARD MOORE, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, and LOIS SPEED.

Councillor Salmond, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations intimated.

3. MINUTES

(i) Communities Committee

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 May 2021 was submitted, approved as a correct record, and signed by the Convener.

(ii) Executive Sub Committee

The minute of meeting of the Executive Sub Committee of 9 July 2021 was submitted and noted.

(iii) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 21 May 2021 was submitted (and subject to the correction of a reference to 'Brown's Cabin' to read 'Bowson's Cabin', noted.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 24 FEBRUARY TO 30 JUNE 2021

With reference to Article 4 of minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 May 2021, there was submitted Report No 244/21, by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, which, with the attached Schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4, provided key information to members during the period 24 February to 30 June 2021 with regard to services within the Vibrant Services and Sustainable Growth Directorate, relating to:

- (i) Public Sector Housing Grants - Quarter 4, to 31 March 2021;
- (ii) Public Sector Housing Grants 2021/22 - Quarter 1, to 30 June 2021;
- (iii) Arrears Update - Housing Revenue Account; and
- (iv) Extension to the Fleet Partnership Agreement with Tayside Contracts.

Following a number of questions from members, the Committee agreed to note the schedules.

5. LAND AT FORMER KINLOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNDEE STREET, CARNOUSTIE

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 8 June 2021, there was submitted Report No 198/21 by the Director of Infrastructure, seeking approval to withdraw the land at the former Kinloch Primary School, Dundee Street, Carnoustie, from the open market for sale, and its appropriation to the Housing Revenue Account for the delivery of affordable housing.

The Report indicated that local elected members had been fully informed throughout the process and were supportive of the appropriation to the Housing Revenue Account for the provision of council housing in Carnoustie in accordance with Financial Regulations.

Having heard Councillors Cheape and McDonald welcome the Report, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:

- (i) to note the decision taken by the Policy and Resources Committee to withdraw this site for sale on the open market for commercial purposes; and
- (ii) to approve the appropriation of the site to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at nil cost for the delivery of affordable housing.

6. PORT SAFETY MARINE CODE – ARBROATH HARBOUR MARINE SAFETY PLAN AND POLICIES

With reference to Article 6(4)(c) of the minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 21 May 2021, there was submitted Report No 245/21 by the Director of Infrastructure, detailing the Marine Safety Plan 2021-2024 for Arbroath Harbour and four associated marine policies which required to be authorised and published on the Angus Council website to ensure continued compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code.

The Service Leader, Roads and Transportation, answered questions from Councillors Duff, Durno, and Moore, explaining that, as the Harbour Committee was a Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) rather than a Sub-Committee of the Communities Committee, any reports from the JCC were for the approval of the Communities Committee. Matters relating to the operation of the Harbour were not for the Communities Committee to consider; rather, its role was to provide strategic knowledge and scrutiny of the Harbour as overall duty holder. He also confirmed that Arbroath was the only harbour within Angus which was the responsibility of this Council.

In response to a query from Councillor Devine, the Service Leader undertook to seek to link an operational tour of the Harbour for Members to a proposed visit by Members to the Arbroath Flood Prevention Scheme works.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) as Duty Holder under the Port Marine Safety Code, to approve the Marine Safety Plan 2021-2024 for Arbroath Harbour and the associated marine policies referred to in the Marine Safety Plan; and
- (ii) to undertake a half day Duty Holder training on a date suitable for all members of this Committee before 17 September 2021 to ensure compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code.

7. ANGUS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GRANT

There was submitted Report No 246/21 by the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, proposing the delivery of a new business grant to support post Covid-19 business recovery across Angus. The Interim Director intimated that she intended applications for lesser amounts of grant would be assessed using a 'lighter touch' approach. For larger grants, the applicant would be required to 'pitch' in a 'Dragon's Den'-type arrangement; however the final scheme criteria and assessment method would be agreed with the Council Leader and Leader of the SNP Group.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the strategic intent behind the proposals in Report 246/21 and the outline criteria proposed for assessing applications;
- (ii) to allocate £250,000 from the 2021/22 General Covid support funding allocated to the Council to enable delivery of a Business Improvement Grant;

- (iii) to delegate to the Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Council Leader and the Leader of the SNP Group, authority to finalise the scheme criteria / conditions and assessment method for the Grant; and
- (iv) to note that expenditure on the proposed Business Improvement Grant would be limited to the funds being set aside for this purpose.

8. B961 KINGENNIE – AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING SPEED LIMITS

There was submitted Report No 247/21 by the Director of Infrastructure, advising as to concerns raised by local residents regarding speeding on the B961 road approaches into Kingennie and detailing the findings of the engineering investigations carried out in response to a request to reduce the existing speed limits. In line with the Council's Speed Limit Strategy.

The Report indicated that, based on the results of the speed survey carried out, it would be appropriate to introduce intermediate (buffer) 40mph speed limits.

Having heard Councillor Fotheringham welcome the Report, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the concerns of local residents;
- (ii) to note the findings of the engineering investigations carried out to assess the concerns; and; and
- (iii) to the implementation of the amendments to the existing speed limits on the B961 road at Kingennie.